



STATE OF MICHIGAN
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

State Board of Education Statement Regarding At-Risk Funding

Education in Michigan has seen steady improvements over the past nine years, with increases in graduation rates, college entrance exam scores, and third grade reading proficiency; and a decline in the state's dropout rates.

In our diligence to ensure that ALL kids are achieving, we must address the educational needs of those students who must overcome the impact of poverty. Child poverty in Michigan is up by 35%, compared with 2006. One in every four children in Michigan lives in poverty. In the city of Detroit alone, four of every five children live in concentrated poverty.

Poverty, both in urban and rural communities, has repercussions on students, teachers, and schools. Food, housing, and safety insecurities have an overwhelming influence on children when they attend school and try to learn. Targeted additional resources are needed to help struggling students reach the academic success of the students in more favorable circumstances.

Governor Snyder has proposed an additional \$100 million in At-Risk funding in the 2015-16 School Aid Budget. The State Board of Education fully supports that recommendation, and urges the Michigan Legislature to include that increased investment in its final budget. This funding reaches every corner of Michigan and will reflect the values of the state's leaders – that every child matters and our greatest challenges can be overcome.

Adopted May 12, 2015

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